



SHELL•O•GRAM

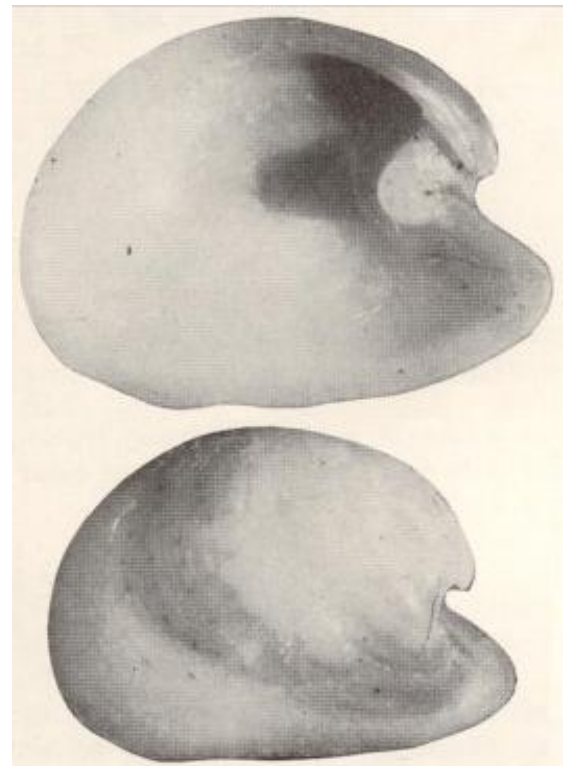
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Upcoming programs

The **September** meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual venue, the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library <<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jacksonville-public-library-southeast-regional-jacksonville>> on the customary fourth Thursday, the **28th**, at 7:00 PM. Harry Lee will present the Shell-of-the-Month, *Littoraria nebulosa* (Lamarck, 1822) [photo by Bill Frank **below L**], the latest (Sept. 1, 2017) addition to the Northeast Florida marine mollusk checklist, now at 805 species <<http://jaxshells.org/marine.htm>>. It was discovered on toppled trees along the seaward shore of Big Talbot Island by State Park staff. This constitutes a significant range extension; read more on pp. 5-8 herein. For the main program, Rick Edwards will chronicle his diving and snorkeling experiences in Key West during the COA 2017 last month.



On Thursday **October 26** we'll reconvene at the above time, but in Function Room D (vs. A), where Rick Edwards will present the Shell-of-the-Month, which specimen is either *Julia japonica* Kuroda and Habe, 1951 or *J. exquisita* Gould, 1862 [lectotype on **R**], or both. This was an unexpected bit of "bycatch" from a sample of foram-rich "star sand" he collected while billeted in Okinawa and only got around to examining several decades later. Harry Lee will follow with a presentation on the sinistral landsnails of Asia (tickler on p. 5 herein)

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This club meets monthly at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida <<http://jpl.coj.net/lib/branches/se.html>>. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual, \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (overseas). Lifetime membership is available. Please remit payment for dues to the address below and make checks payable to the Jacksonville Shell Club. The club's newsletter and scientific journal, the *Shell-O-Gram* (ISSN 2472-2774) is issued bimonthly and mailed to an average of 15 regular members and friends by specific request and no less than ten scientific institutions with permanent libraries. An electronic (pdf) version, identical except for "live" URL's and color (vs. B&W) images, is issued the next day and sent to about 200 individuals who have demonstrated an interest in malacological research. These pdf's (ISSN 2472-2782) have also been posted to <<http://jaxshells.org/letters.htm>> since November, 1998. We encourage members and friends to submit articles for publication. Closing date for manuscript submission is two weeks before each month of publication. Articles appearing in the *Shell-O-Gram* may be republished provided credit is given the author and the *Shell-O-Gram*. As a courtesy, the editor and author should receive a copy of the republication. Contents of the *Shell-O-Gram* are intended to enter the permanent scientific record.

Election of officers

At the **August 24th** meeting President Brian Marshall called for additional nominations for the slate presented by the Nominating Committee at the **July 27th** meeting. None was made, and the proposed dissolution of the Board of Directors introduced at that July meeting was approved unanimously. The incumbent nominees are:

President: Brian Marshall; Vice President: Paul Jones; Secretary: Roz Edwards; Treasurer: Harry Lee.

Further nominations will be solicited from the floor at the **September 28th** meeting, and the annual election will take place immediately thereafter.

Membership Dues are payable in September each year.
If you're not paid up, please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00; Family \$20.00, to
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COA Key West: Return to the Conch Republic

by [Alan Gettleman]*



Good things are worth waiting for! Where were you in 1980? The COA, some seven years old and quickly growing, was held in Key West, Florida. Just 37 years later, COA returned to the “Conch Republic” for a memorable and historic convention.

In 1980, members of the local shell club came together and actually collected queen conch and made conch fritters for the convention goers. A hurricane interrupted the convention and host members scrambled to take members on alternate shore-based trips. Shellers were treated to a “Bourse” a term for marketplace where shell dealers had tables of shells for sale, a highlight of that and all subsequent COA conventions.

A few of the 1980 convention alumni were host club members Greg Curry, Sr, also co-chair of this year’s convention, and Homer Rhode, former ATSC club member. A slightly younger trio of the very young in 1980, Gary Rosenberg, Rich Goldberg, and Kevin Sunderland also attended in 2017. Rich was the banquet speaker with the highlights of 1980 which included the iconic Leslie Nielsen movie “Airplane” and the convention. Of those mentioned by Rich attending the 1980 COA, your editor knew/knows about 1/2, had heard of, but never met, another 1/4, and the rest were shellers unknown to him.

Astronaut Trail Shell Club members attending this year’s COA included Jim Cordy, who attended the bourse with his care giver Marsha; B.J. Shouppé, Nan Stewart, Doris Underwood, Amy and George Dick, and Alan Gettleman. Other than the North Carolina Shell Club, many of whose members assisted with the convention, and Sarasota, our club was one of the more well-represented. [ed. note] the Jacksonville Shell Club was represented by four: your editor, Rick and Roz Edwards, and Karlynn Morgan.

Popular field trips were several snorkeling trips prior to the convention, a tour of local native areas where the elusive *Liguus* tree snail was seen, and a definitely memorable dinner cruise.

This COA oral auction was the first installment of the Frederick Weiss collection, a monster assortment of exceptional shells donated to COA. The oral auction was composed entirely of Mr. Weiss’ shells, earned over \$81,000!!! for future scholarship grants.

Four of the five silent auctions were also composed of Mr. Weiss’ shells and took in another \$20,000 plus. In addition, shells have been earmarked for the next two conventions’ auctions.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, August 13th

| | |
|---|--|
| Morning Snorkel Trip Meet in the Lobby by 7:45 am Departing Promptly by 8:00 am | Big Pine Tour Meet in the Lobby by 7:45 am Departing Promptly by 8:00 am |
| Afternoon Snorkel Trip Meet in the Lobby by 12:15 pm Departing Promptly by 12:30 pm | Conch Tour Train Trip Meet in the Lobby by 1:45 pm Departing Promptly by 2:00 pm |
| *Ghost & Gravesites – Meet in the Lobby by 6:45 pm * Departing Promptly by 7:00 pm * *This is a new concept, please take note! | |

Monday, August 14th

| | |
|---|--|
| Morning Snorkel Trip Meet in the Lobby by 7:45 am Departing Promptly by 8:00 am | 5 Attractions Meet in the Lobby by 1:15 pm Departing Promptly by 1:30 pm |
| Dinner Cruise Meet in the Lobby by 5:15 pm Departing Promptly by 5:30 pm | |

As pioneered with the 1998 COA convention in Louisville which did not have an active club, most convention committee workers came from other shell clubs. The North Carolina Shell Club helped or ran events headed by



Ed Shuller, the other co-chair of the convention. They committed to the 12 plus hour days working at the convention. John and Cheryl Jacobs once again successfully ran the silent auctions. This marks a new and increasingly important method for future COA conventions to help local clubs host a COA.

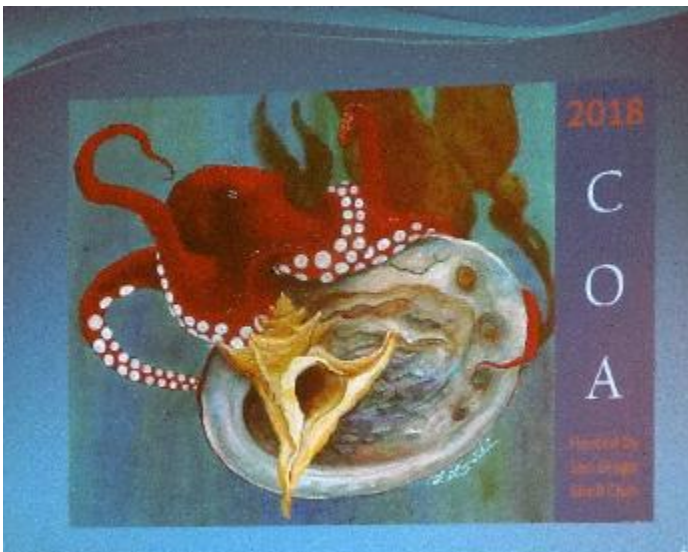
[Ed. note] Bob Janowsky receives the *Neptunea* Award from COA Trustee Everett Long at the Convention Banquet August 17, 2017. Bob is the only active Charter Member of COA, and he has helped shepherd the organization through thick and thin for its 45 years. He has made prominent contributions in the areas of

leadership, publication, historical and scientific presentations, to name a few. In short he is our institutional memory.

COA Conventions to come – and one at Cape Canaveral in 2010

by [Alan Gettleman]*

At the COA business meeting, locations of upcoming COA conventions were announced.



We return to **San Diego, California** in **2018**, a city locals call "America's Favorite City." Hotel: Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, 380 Harbor Island Drive, 92101; (619) 692-2385. Rooms start at \$189 per night with 12.7% tax. Free WiFi and airport shuttle. Dates are: Monday-Tues. Aug 27-28, non collecting field trips, including an outrageously expensive dinner cruise (\$120-\$130 per person) on Aug 28. Wed. Aug 29, Programs and Welcome Party, Thurs. Aug 30 Programs and Oral Auction. Fri. Aug 31 Programs and Banquet. The dealers' bourse is Sat. & Sun. Sep 1-2. Welcome party at hotel. San Diego is a wonderful city to visit, and the temperature will be much COOLER than hot, hot Florida next August. See official logo for the event on **L**.

For **2019** COA will return to the South Seas Plantation, the wonderful resort at the far end of **Captiva Island, Florida**. Sometime in June, room cost around \$179.

For **2020**, COA is coming to **CAPE CANAVERAL!** The hotel will probably be again the Radisson at the Port, and costs should be in the \$119 range. Planning is sometime in June, but we will try to have our COA near the time the American Malacological Society (AMS) meets, probably in the Florida Keys. The theme is 20/20 Return to the Future: A look back and to the future of manned space flight from Cape Canaveral.

* both of the preceding articles were taken from *The Capsule*, the newsletter of the Astronaut Trail Shell Club (Merritt Is., FL) August, 2017 with permission. [Brackets indicate the piece was unattributed, but Alan is the editor.]



***Amphidromus comes* (L. Pfeiffer, 1861) (L) and *Amphidromus dohrni* (L. Pfeiffer, 1863) (R)
from Pfeiffer, 1866: plate 75: figs. 10-13.**

Pfeiffer L., 1866-1869. *Novitates Conchologicae. Series Prima. Mollusca Extramarina Beschreibung und Abbildung neuer oder kritischer Land- und Süßwasser-Mollusken (Mit Einschluss der Auriculaceen) vol.3.* Theodor Fischer, Cassel. 301- 510 + pls. 73-108 [issued in twelve parts, from Sept., 1866 to Nov., 1869].

Species number 805 on the Northeast Florida Checklist; a peripatetic periwinkle

by Harry G. Lee

It was the last Wednesday in August when my customary hebdomadal search for microfossils at the Florida Museum in Gainesville was interrupted by a cell phone from Jax collector and webmaster, Bill Frank. He had just received an email from Richard Owen, Environmental Specialist II, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. Rick was inquiring about the identity of a greenish periwinkle found in his jurisdiction, Big Talbot Island, Jacksonville. The shell in the attached crisp close-up photograph, taken on October 3, 2016, seemed to match images taken by Park colleagues the day before contact was made with Bill. I got a look at the year-old image on a department computer and became suspicious that this



green periwinkle [L] was a “new” species for NE Florida. Within a day, an expedition was arranged with Rangers Kinsey Langshaw and Meghan Harris, Bill and wife Chin, and me to walk the Black Rock Trail from Hwy. A1A to the shore of Nassau Sound on Friday. As we clambered down the eroded dune, an extensive wasteland of toppled trees, the victims of marine erosion, appeared before us. Within a minute, at stations a few feet above the low tide waters, we began



finding clusters of mostly yellow-green snails ranging from the size of a BB to ~ 20mm [R] throughout this driftwood “jungle.”

Much of the surface of these weathered skeletal remains of pines and live oaks that was not exposed to the sunlight and was capable of retaining some moisture harbored up to several dozen of the snails, which were, in fact, “new.”

Bill and I were familiar with this stretch of Big Talbot shoreline, which at first blush appears barren [below L], but neither of us had come across this extensive colony of periwinkles, now positively identifiable as *Littoraria nebulosa* (Lamarck, 1822), the Cloudy Periwinkle, until that moment. Furthermore, over the past fifty years, countless visits to that very stretch of shoreline by lots of JSC shellers had never evoked even a mention of such a population. When did the immigrants come ashore? Right now information is limited, but Rick Owen has another photograph of these snails in this distinctive place taken on June 11, 2015. More on this anon.



Although found along throughout the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean waters to Surinam (Rosenberg, 2007) including Kice <<http://www.jaxshells.org/5449.htm>> and St. George Is. <<http://www.jaxshells.org/8131z.htm>>, W FL, the northernmost E Florida record is Ft. Pierce, St.

Lucie Co., by Marlo Krisberg, some 200 miles distant. His website, “Let’s Talk Seashells” treats this species in detail; see <http://z14.invisionfree.com/Conchologist_Forum/index.php?showtopic=2222>.

Postponing reflections on this quantum range extension, let’s take a glimpse at the taxonomic origin of this peripatetic periwinkle and a now sympatric (but allotopic) congener more proximally native to Big Talbot Is.

Phasianella nebulosa Lamarck, 1822 (p. 54) was described [R] from the island of Hispaniola (likely modern



obtuse equal lines ... suture not indented ...

7. Phasianelle nébuleuse. *Phasianella nebulosa*.

Ph. testá ovato-ventricosá, conoideá, subperforatá, glabrá, albidá, rufo caeruleoque nebulosá; anfractibus convexis.

Habite sur les côtes de Saint-Domingue. *Riche*. Mon cabinet. Longueur de celle qui précède.

Haiti). Forgetting the generic assignment of his species, and forgiving the brevity of the noble Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Monet Comte de Lamarck's description, we can see his use of the Latin "glabra" (shiny), "rufo caeruleoque nebulosa" (clouded with red and blue-gray), and "anfractibus convexis" (convex whorls) are quite helpful in defining the shell [L].

The familiar Marsh Periwinkle, *Littoraria irrorata* [shell **below** L] was named by Thomas Say the same year (1822: 239-240; [**below** R]) but across the pond from Paris, in Philadelphia. Say's somewhat more detailed description mentions the greenish color, likely due to commensal algae in this case (and proven with the immigrants' shells), but "thick ... elevated

TURBO, Lin. Montf.

SPECIES.

1. *T. *irroratus*. Shell thick, greenish or pale cinereous, with numerous revolving, elevated, obtuse, equal lines, which are spotted with abbreviated brownish lines; suture not indented; spire acute; labium incrassated, yellowish-brown; labrum within white and thick, at the edge thin, and lined with dark brownish; throat white; columella with an indentation; operculum coriaceous.

Length four-fifths of an inch.

Inhabits the coast of the United States.

Cabinet of the Academy and Philadelphia Museum.

This has the general appearance of *T. littoreus*, but is sufficiently distinct by the above characters; the calcareous deposit on the labium is copious.

An inhabitant of our estuaries of the middle and southern states. I have found them on the Eastern shore of Maryland, and upon the coast of Carolina, Georgia and Florida; and my brother obtained a specimen on the coast of New Jersey, of the length of one inch and one-tenth nearly. Mr. Cuvier would place this shell in the genus *Paludina*.



labrum within white and thick” are sufficient to distinguish the two species. At this point I’m tempted to mention that some species descriptions penned nearly two centuries later are not as rigorous.

Original descriptions aside, a critical difference between these two presently congeneric periwinkles is their microhabitat, upon which neither of the masters touched. Say’s species has become known as the “Marsh Periwinkle,” a more apt cognomen than what his chosen Latin specific epithet, *irrorata*, meaning granular, connotes. It is a creature of the salt marshes of New Jersey to Texas (Rosenberg, *Ibid*). I have observed it ascend the stalks of *Spartina* (cordgrass) with the flood tide and descend from those retreats with the ebb. It feeds on fungi, which it helps propagate by etching the cordgrass surface to provide a foothold for this symbiont (Silliman and Newell, 2003). In contradistinction, the Cloudy Periwinkle lives on hard surfaces and thrives principally in the “splash zone” above mean high water, where it likely feeds on a thin veneer of microalgae (Reid, 2009). Whereas the Marsh Periwinkle is a creature of the mucky backwaters, the Cloudy Periwinkle is wed to areas of generally higher salinity with hard substrate, usually facing the open sea. Thus it is hard to envision any competition between the two somewhat similar-appearing species – at least for food.

Hard substrate is a scarce commodity along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the American southeast. Before the European immigration, there was essentially no such habitat. As seen with the dissemination of the Calmwater Periwinkle, *Echinolittorina placida* Reid, 2009 <<http://www.jaxshells.org/ramaaa.htm>>, which, incidentally, we collected in lesser numbers alongside *L. nebulosa* in the driftwood “jungle,” man-made structures, e.g., piers, jetties, seemed to be the only suitable habitat along this vast stretch. As adventitious rocks serve *E. placida*, is this relatively novel niche the *raison d’être* for both these vagrant periwinkle populations, or are there other environmental drivers such as climate change? Will these two species compete, and one emerge the victor? Further observations in this unique outdoor laboratory may provide some answers to the important posers.

The author credits Bill Frank, Marlo Krisberg, and Rick Owen for the photographs used above. Bill, Chin, and I are indebted to Rangers Harris, Langshaw, and Owens of Big Talbot Island State Park for access and guidance in this provocative reconnaissance.

Lamarck, J. B. P. A. de M. de, 1822. *Histoire naturelle des animaux sans vertèbres présentant les caractères généraux et particuliers de ces animaux, leur distribution, leurs classes, leur familles, leurs genres, et la citation des principales espèces qui s’y rapportent; précédée d’une introduction offrant la détermination des caractères essentiels de l’animal, sa distinction du végétal et des autres corps naturels; enfin l’exposition des principes fondamentaux de la zoologie. [Première édition] Tome 7.* Lamarck, Paris. 1-711. August.
<<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/13177642>>

Reid, D.G., 2009. The genus *Echinolittorina* Habe, 1956 (Gastropoda: Littorinidae) in the western Atlantic Ocean. *Zootaxa* 2184: 1103. Aug. 6. Abstract at <<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/z02184p103f.pdf>>

Rosenberg, G., 2009. Malacolog 4.1.1: A Database of Western Atlantic Marine Mollusca. Electronic database accessible at <<http://www.malacolog.org.org>>.

Say, T., 1822. An account of some of the marine shells of the United States [part 1 of 3]. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 2: 221-248. <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/36831411>>

Silliman, B. and S. Newell, 2003. Fungal farming in a snail. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 100(26): 15643–15648. doi: <[10.1073/pnas.2535227100](http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2535227100)>

Jacksonville Shell Club's annual COA Academic Grant

by Harry G. Lee

The JSC COA Grant for 2017 was awarded to Farhana Hossain an undergraduate student at Howard University in Washington, DC. Her project is titled: "Anatomical and genetic characterization of *Pila scutata* (Mousson, 1848)." COA Academic Awards Chair, Dr. Jann Vendetti, sent her a check in the amount \$1960.00 about six weeks before last month's COA Convention. Other committee members participating in the selection process were Drs. Ángel Valdés, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA, Wallace Meyer, Pomona College, Pomona, CA, and Christine Parent, University of Idaho. This year these four experts funded 12 of 39 proposals for a total of \$25,652.41.



Some members of the JSC are particularly interested in the phylogenetics and general biology of applesnails like this Asian species since three confamilial relatives, *Pomacea canaliculata*, *P. maculata*, and *P. diffusa* have been introduced into the fresh waters of our fair city from South America. Extensive treatment of these and the FL native, *P. paludosa* (Say, 1829), a 52 mm late Pliocene shell of which is shown **above**, can be found at <http://www.jaxshells.org/chan.htm>, <http://www.jaxshells.org/bridge.htm>, and <http://www.jaxshells.org/pomacea.htm>, respectively.

Florida United Malacologists (FUM)—2018

The ninth meeting of Florida United Malacologists (FUM) will take place on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel Island, Florida. The one day gathering aims at enhancing communication among researchers, collectors, citizen scientists, and students interested in a broad swath of mollusk-related topics.

FUM follows the pattern of similar gatherings such as BAM (Bay Area Malacologists), SCUM (Southern California United Malacologists), MAM (Mid-Atlantic Malacologists), and OVUM (Ohio Valley United Malacologists). There is no formal membership and there are no dues, officers, nor publications. Presentations are limited to 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

Presenters are required to submit a simple abstract limited to 150 words or less. Seating is limited and registration is free, but mandatory. Deadline for registrations and abstract submissions will be December 31, 2017. Registration information will follow soon.

Visits to the Shell Museum collection and library will be limited to two days prior to the gathering, Thursday, January 25, and Friday, January 26. The collection area will be closed during the event. Courtesy box lunches and beverages will be provided to all participants.

And make sure you join the group dinner at a local seafood restaurant (your own expense). I hope to see you at FUM 2018!

José H. Leal, Ph.D.
Science Director & Curator
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum



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